

ABSTRACT

An architecture and distributed hierarchical interconnect scheme for field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs). The FPGA is comprised of a number of cells which perform logical functions on input signals. Programmable intraconnections provide connectability between each output of a cell belonging to a logical cluster to at least one input of each of the other cells belonging to that logical cluster. A set of programmable block connectors are used to provide connectability between logical clusters of cells and accessibility to the hierarchical routing network. An uniformly distributed first layer of routing network lines is used to provide connections amongst sets of block connectors. An uniformly distributed second layer of routing network lines is implemented to provide connectability between different first layers of routing network lines. Switching networks are used to provide connectability between the block connectors and routing network lines corresponding to the first layer. Other switching networks provide connectability between the routing network lines corresponding to the first layer to routing network lines corresponding to the second layer. Additional uniformly distributed layers of routing network lines are implemented to provide connectability between different prior layers of routing network lines. An additional routing layer is added when the number of cells is increased as a square function of two of the prior cell count in the array while the length of the routing lines

and the number of routing lines increases as a linear function of two. Programmable bi-directional passgates are used as switches to control which of the routing network lines are to be connected.